

Hot Springs 5/10/17

EPA Scheduled Public Meetings, 05/08/10 and 05/09/17 Rapid City SD, 05/10/17 Hot Springs SD, and 05/11/17 Edgemont SD.

RE: Two Underground Injection Control (UIC) Draft Area Permits, and one associated Proposed Aquifer Exemption Decision for the Dewey-Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Site located near Edgemont, South Dakota under the Authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act and UIC Program Regulations in connection with the Class III Area Permit to exempt the uranium bearing portions of the Inyan Kara Group Aquifers.

Note – Powertech is now owned by AZARGA. I have used Powertech and/or AZARGA-Powertech in my document.

Fellow Public Attendees and EPA representatives,

I, Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) from Englewood Colorado, stand here today to loudly and clearly oppose the proposed Aquifer Exemption decision for the Dewey-Burdock uranium in-situ recovery (ISR) site located near Edgemont, South Dakota under the Authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act and UIC program regulations in connection with the Class III area permit to exempt the uranium bearing portions of the Inyan Kara Group Aquifers.

The EPA has proven itself to have devolved into nothing more than an 8 billion dollar agency dedicated to supporting and promoting EXEMPTIONS for the very industries that continue to cause massive environmental contamination - the legacy of which is left to the local residents for generations.

AT ISSUE - The portions of the Inyan Kara Group aquifers the EPA proposes to exempt have historically been used as a source of drinking water, are currently used as a source of drinking water, and can be a future source of drinking water.

EPA's current Title 40 146.4 declares "The proposed aquifer exemption area must not be a current or future source of drinking water using the criteria at 40 CFR146.4".

This latest grotesque and alarming action by the EPA to propose exemption of these portions of the Inyan Kara Group aquifers blatantly ignores the existing original EPA aquifer exemption criteria found in Title 40 146.4, and sets a disastrous new precedence for opening up our ever more scarce and precious life sustaining clean water Aquifers that can be used as sources for drinking water to permanent contamination from oil/gas hydraulic fracturing used for UIC recovery and disposal wells, and uranium and other ISR mining activities that also utilize hydraulic fracturing for UIC recovery and disposal well activities, and any other In-Situ Solution Mining.

The evidence of the convoluted joint efforts between the EPA and AZARGA-Powertech to set this precedent in order to change the current Aquifer Exemption criteria is spelled out in the **EPA's 11/17/16 Aquifer Exemption Technical Memorandum.**

As recorded in the 11/17/16 Memorandum, EPA and Powertech worked cooperatively to manipulate (as evidenced by actions regarding the resident using well 16) the status of current drinking water use of water from the targeted portions of the Inyan Kara group in order to eliminate the "current use" protection from exemption under the current 40 146.4 Criteria, and then ^{intend} ~~attempt~~ ^{eliminate} to ~~eliminate~~ the "or future source of drinking water" criteria by simply not considering "future source of drinking water" with this Aquifer Exemption Proposal. If this this proposed Aquifer Exemption were to be Allowed, the

"future source of drinking water" protection will be eliminated by this precedent setting Aquifer Exemption.

Currently there are multiple wells drawn from the targeted portions of the Inyan Kara Group Aquifers that were historically and currently used for both human and livestock consumption. Many of these residences are currently abandoned and therefore the EPA and AZARGA-Powerteck can say are not currently using the water for drinking water. But at least one residence continues to use well water (well 16) from this targeted portion of the Aquifer. To create a "no current use status" from which the EPA and AZARGA-Powerteck are trying to base this AE Proposal, Powerteck promised to permanently provide the resident with bottled water for drinking if they agreed to let Powerteck sever and seal off the water line from the well to the home. The resident agreed and the water line from the well to the house was severed and sealed. However, well 16 water continues to be used for this resident's livestock - Which under SD laws is still considered the same as well water used for human consumption - A fact that the EPA is also willing to ignore!

But this was sufficient for the EPA to approve consideration for the proposed Aquifer Exemption concluding their 11/17/16 Memorandum;

"Based on the CZA calculations, the EPA has concluded that the portions of the Inyan Kara aquifers proposed for exemption 'do not currently serve' as a source of drinking water."

Pen Valais - 3/06/17 2 mining wells were removed (RE well 16)
I publicly denounce this current effort by the EPA, and I demand that the EPA follow its own laws and Environmental Protection mandate and not approve this Inyan Kara Aquifer group for exemption, because in fact this Inyan Kara Aquifer Group is indeed a "current and future source of drinking water" that requires an mandates protection!

*but not
other
wells
that
may still
pollute the
protection*

I wish to state two additional alarming facts:

What the EPA also won't tell you is that uranium in-situ recovery mining has consistently resulted in contamination. And per the US Geological Survey (USGS), to date there has been no successful mitigation of the contamination resulting from uranium in-situ recovery mining. So your current status of future source of drinking water will be permanently lost if this exemption is approved.

What the EPA has also not disclosed to local residents is that once approved, the class III underground injection disposal wells approved for uranium mining waste water disposal will also be made available for injection disposal of other radioactive waste fluids from other sources such as Municipal water treatment plants well past when uranium mining activities stop.

Thank you,

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)